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U.S. AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT
BUREAU FOR DEMOCRACY, CONFLICT, AND HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE (DCHA)
OFFICE OF U.S. FOREIGN DISASTER ASSISTANCE (OFDA)

Nepal – Humanitarian Assistance

Fact Sheet #1, Fiscal Year (FY) 2007

June 6, 2007

BACKGROUND

- The decade-long civil conflict in Nepal between the Government of Nepal (GON) and the Communist Party of Nepal-Maoist (CPN-M) caused an estimated 13,000 deaths, according to the U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA). Humanitarian assistance organizations report that the conflict displaced an estimated 200,000 people.
- OCHA estimates that as many as 130,000 refugees remain in Nepal, including approximately 107,000 refugees from Bhutan.
- In early 2006, the GON and the CPN-M began peace discussions, signing a Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) in November. Both parties also agreed on the completion of military quarters, or cantonments, for the Maoists in selected areas. In January 2007, the CPN-M and the Seven Party Alliance (SPA), a coalition of democratic political parties, agreed to an interim constitution. On April 1, the CPN-M and the SPA formed an interim government.
- On April 13, 2007, the Nepali Election Commission reported insufficient time to adequately prepare for constituent assembly elections in June, before the onset of monsoon rains. According to international media sources, on May 31 the SPA and the CPN-M agreed to reschedule elections for late November or early December.

NUMBERS AT A GLANCE¹		SOURCE
Total deaths caused by conflict since 1996	13,000	OCHA – February 2007
Total IDPs² displaced by conflict since 1996	200,000	IDMC ³ – October 2006
Refugees in Nepal	130,000	OCHA – February 2007

HUMANITARIAN FUNDING PROVIDED TO DATE (FY 2006 AND FY 2007)

USAID/OFDA Assistance to Nepal.....	\$5,313,311
USAID/FFP⁴ Assistance to Nepal	\$5,212,600
USAID/OTI⁵ Assistance to Nepal	\$3,681,000
State/PRM⁶ Assistance to Nepal	\$1,200,000
Total USAID and State Humanitarian Assistance to Nepal.....	\$15,406,911

CURRENT SITUATION

- In early 2007, groups of Madhesi, who consider themselves to be the indigenous people of the southern plains or Terai region, carried out protests and blocked roads to voice discontent with the interim constitution and alleged long-standing discrimination by Pahadis, or those of hill origin. OCHA reported continuing violence in the Terai region between Madhesi groups, Maoist supporters and other groups. The security situation and intimidation by Madhesi groups also impeded the delivery of services by both humanitarian organizations and the GON.

Protection and Assistance to Displaced Persons

- OCHA has reported that a number of children have been recruited to take part in CPN-M and militia activities. As a result, a significant number of unaccompanied children have migrated to urban centers to avoid forced recruitment. International monitoring organizations report more than 6,000 of the 30,000 registered Maoists in military cantonments are children. The CPN-M has disputed these allegations and agreed on May 21 to allow the U.N. to conduct a more detailed verification of combatants in cantonments, beginning in early June.
- A significant number of returnees and IDPs are returning home and continue to face protection concerns, according to OCHA. USAID/OFDA has contributed nearly \$570,000 to the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) to assist the return and reintegration of IDPs in Nepal in a safe, fair, and humane manner.

¹ These numbers are estimates provided by the following organizations

² Internally displaced persons

³ Internal Displacement Monitoring Center of the Norwegian Refugee Council

⁴ USAID's Office of Food for Peace

⁵ USAID's Office of Transition Initiatives

⁶ U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration

- USAID/OFDA has allocated approximately \$590,000 to the International Rescue Committee (IRC) for protection programs and relief commodities for IDPs and other conflict-affected populations. USAID/OFDA is also providing more than \$1 million to Save the Children/U.S. (SC/US) in the areas of protection, relief commodities, agricultural inputs, and water, sanitation, and hygiene for IDPs and other conflict-affected populations.
- The U.S. Government (USG) continues to encourage the governments of Nepal and Bhutan to implement their agreement to allow eligible Bhutanese refugees to return to Bhutan. The majority of these refugees have lived in Nepal for 16 years and continue to rely on the international community for humanitarian assistance.
- In October 2006, the USG announced its willingness to consider a significant number of Bhutanese refugees for permanent resettlement. In May 2007, the USG announced the selection of the International Organization for Migration to operate a new Overseas Processing Entity in Nepal, which will begin processing the first Bhutanese refugees referred by the Office of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in September.
- To date in FY 2007, State/PRM has allocated \$200,000 to UNHCR to support the Tibetan Refugee Reception Center in Kathmandu. State/PRM has also provided approximately \$3.4 million to support UNHCR's regional refugee protection and assistance activities in Nepal, India, and Sri Lanka. In addition, State/PRM is contributing \$20 million to the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) for activities in South Asia, including assistance to conflict-affected persons in Nepal in FY 2007.

Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management

- OCHA facilitates the coordination of information gathering and sharing, particularly focusing on the issues of operational space, IDPs, and natural disasters. Working in conjunction with the GON, U.N. agencies, donors, and international and local non-governmental organizations (NGOs), OHCA supports common planning exercises and disaster response.
- In FY 2007 USAID/OFDA is providing \$400,000 to support OCHA's coordination efforts, information management, and geographic information systems.

Emergency Food Assistance

- According to the U.N. World Food Program (WFP), despite an increase of nearly 9 percent in wheat production at the national level as compared to the previous year, production in the hills and mountains of the Mid-Western and Far Western regions was below expectations due to erratic rainfall, hailstorms, and heavy snowfall.
- In response to the ongoing food insecurity, USAID/FFP has contributed \$2 million to WFP to extend the Emergency Operation to populations in drought-affected areas of the Mid-Western and Far Western regions.
- USAID/FFP has also provided \$2 million to WFP to support to Bhutanese refugees in Morang and Jhapa districts, Eastern Region, and anticipates making an additional \$2 million contribution in June, 2007.

Disaster Preparedness

- Nepal is subject to natural disasters including flooding, landslides, earthquakes, and drought. To address these disaster vulnerabilities, USAID/OFDA supports preparedness and mitigation activities in Nepal and other Asian countries. The National Society for Earthquake Technology (NSET) in Kathmandu, Nepal works with the GON, , NGOs, schools, and local communities to increase earthquake awareness and preparedness by coordinating the long-term earthquake risk reduction plan for the Kathmandu Valley. In FY 2006, USAID/OFDA provided nearly \$150,000 to support the project.
- USAID/OFDA supports the International Center for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD), based in Nepal, to strengthen community involvement and improve understanding of flash floods, forecasts, and warnings. The project aims to reduce vulnerability to flash floods in the Himalayan region. In FY 2006, USAID/OFDA provided nearly \$170,000 to support the project.
- The Program for Enhancement of Emergency Response (PEER) is a USAID/OFDA-funded program, implemented by NSET since 2003, to develop national and regional cadres of professional emergency response instructors in six Asian countries, including Nepal. PEER assists national disaster management agencies in organizing and conducting training in medical first response, collapsed structure search and rescue, and hospital preparedness for mass casualties after a disaster. To date in FY 2007, USAID/OFDA has provided a total of approximately \$940,000 for PEER, of which nearly \$160,000 has supported activities in Nepal.
- The Asia Flood Network (AFN) strengthens the capacity of regional and national hydrometeorological institutions in climate, weather, and hydrological forecasting while directly involving communities at risk in reducing vulnerability to hydrometeorological hazards. In collaboration with partners in Asia, the AFN is jointly implemented by USAID/OFDA, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and the U.S. Geological Survey. To date, USAID/OFDA has provided \$2,329,927 for AFN since FY 2003.

USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

- On October 11, 2006, U.S. Ambassador to Nepal James F. Moriarty re-declared a disaster due to the ongoing humanitarian needs resulting from the conflict. To date in FY 2007, USAID/OFDA has allocated more than \$2.7 million for humanitarian assistance programs in Nepal, including approximately \$160,000 for disaster preparedness and nearly \$2.6 million for the complex emergency.
- To date in FY 2007, USAID/OTI has provided more than \$1.9 million to implementing partner Chemonics International Inc. to bolster the current peace process, strengthen governance mechanisms, and support positive, non-violent community engagement in the country's political, social and economic future.

USAID AND STATE HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO NEPAL IN FY 2007 AND FY 2006

FY 2007			
Implementing Partner	Activity	Location	Amount
USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE¹			
IRC	Protection, Relief Commodities	Mid-Western Region	\$590,032
NRC	Protection	Mid-Western, Eastern, and Central Regions	\$567,941
OCHA	Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management	Countrywide	\$400,000
SC/ USA	Agriculture and Food Security, Protection, Relief Commodities, Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene	Far Western and Mid-Western Regions	\$1,000,200
NSET (PEER Program) ²	Preparedness and Mitigation	Kathmandu Valley (Central Region)	\$156,967
TOTAL USAID/OFDA			\$2,715,140
USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE³			
WFP	3,760 MT of P.L. 480 Title II Emergency Food Assistance	Far Western, Mid-Western, and Eastern Regions	\$4,000,000
TOTAL USAID/FFP			\$4,000,000
USAID/OTI ASSISTANCE			
Chemonics International Inc.	Peace and Transition Initiatives	Countrywide	\$1,906,000
TOTAL USAID/OTI			\$1,906,000
STATE/PRM ASSISTANCE⁴			
UNHCR	Protection, Refugee Assistance	Kathmandu Valley (Central Region)	\$200,000
TOTAL STATE/PRM			\$200,000
TOTAL USAID AND STATE HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO NEPAL IN FY 2007			\$8,823,080

¹ USAID/OFDA funding represents anticipated or actual obligated amounts as of June 6, 2007.

² In FY 2007, USAID/OFDA has provided \$941,801 for PEER activities in India, Indonesia, Nepal, the Philippines, Bangladesh, and Pakistan.

³ Estimated value of food assistance.

⁴ In FY 2007, State/PRM has provided \$3.38 million to support UNHCR's refugee protection and assistance activities in Nepal, India, and Sri Lanka and is contributing \$20 million to ICRC for activities in South Asia, including assistance to conflict victims in Nepal.

FY 2006			
USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE¹			
ICRC	Health, Logistics, Relief Commodities, Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene	Affected Areas	\$500,000
SC/ US	Health, Relief Commodities, Shelter, Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene	Far Western, Mid-Western, Western, and Eastern Regions	\$450,000
WFP	Logistics, Agriculture and Food Security	Affected Areas	\$1,037,383
NSET	Preparedness and Mitigation	Kathmandu Valley (Central Region)	\$145,078
NSET (PEER Program) ²	Preparedness and Mitigation	Kathmandu Valley (Central Region)	\$300,000
ICIMOD	Preparedness and Mitigation	Countrywide	\$165,710
TOTAL USAID/OFDA			\$2,598,171
USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE³			
WFP	1,280 MT of P.L. 480 Title II Emergency Food Assistance	Eastern Region	\$1,212,600
TOTAL USAID/FFP			\$1,212,600
USAID/OTI ASSISTANCE			
Chemonics International Inc.	Peace and Transition Initiatives	Countrywide	\$1,775,000
TOTAL USAID/OTI			\$1,775,000
STATE/PRM ASSISTANCE⁴			
UNHCR	Protection, Refugee Assistance	Kathmandu Valley (Central Region)	\$250,000
WFP	Food Assistance	Eastern Region	\$750,000
TOTAL STATE/PRM			\$1,000,000
TOTAL USAID AND STATE HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO NEPAL IN FY 2006			\$6,585,771

¹ USAID/OFDA funding represents anticipated or actual obligated amounts as of June 6, 2007.

² In FY 2006, USAID/OFDA has provided \$1.5 million for PEER activities in India, Indonesia, Nepal, the Philippines, and Bangladesh.

³ Estimated value of food assistance.

⁴ In FY 2006, State/PRM has provided \$2 million to the Tibet Fund to support reception facilities, health and education for Tibetans in Nepal and India; \$4.25 million to UNHCR's regional refugee protection and assistance activities in Nepal, India, and Sri Lanka; and \$13.8 million to the ICRC for activities in South Asia, including assistance to conflict-affected persons in Nepal.

PUBLIC DONATION INFORMATION

- The most effective way people can assist relief efforts is by making cash contributions to humanitarian organizations that are conducting relief operations. Information on organizations responding to the humanitarian situation in Nepal can be found at www.reliefweb.int
- USAID encourages cash donations because they allow aid professionals to procure the exact items needed (often in the affected region); reduce the burden on scarce resources (such as transportation routes, staff time, warehouse space, etc.); can be transferred very quickly and without transportation costs; support the economy of the disaster-stricken region; and ensure culturally, dietary, and environmentally appropriate assistance.
- More information can be found at:
 - USAID: www.usaid.gov – Keyword: Donations
 - The Center for International Disaster Information: www.cidi.org or (703) 276-1914
 - Information on relief activities of the humanitarian community can be found at www.reliefweb.int

USAID/OFDA bulletins appear on the USAID web site at http://www.usaid.gov/our_work/humanitarian_assistance/disaster_assistance